

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of transferring one or more images from an electronic camera to a service provider, the camera including optics and an image sensor for generating an image signal, a display for displaying images, a plurality of user inputs, a first digital memory for storing digital images, a second digital memory for storing a network configuration file, and a communications interface, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) storing the network configuration file for the service provider in the second digital memory;
- (b) subsequently using the optics and image sensor to generate a plurality of image signals which are stored as a plurality of digital images in the first digital memory;
- (c) viewing at least one of the plurality of digital images on the display of the electronic camera;
- (d) using at least one of the plurality of user inputs to select at least one digital image for transfer to the service provider;
- (e) using at least one of the plurality of user inputs to initiate transfer of the selected at least one digital image to the service provider; and
- (f) using the network configuration file, the electronic camera automatically establishing communications with the service provider and transferring the selected digital image(s) from the electronic camera to the service provider using the communications interface.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network configuration file includes a protocol type identifier.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein protocol type identifier identifies a TCP/IP protocol.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1 further including the steps of:

(g) transferring from the service provider to the electronic camera, feedback indicating the status of the transfer process; and

(h) displaying the status on the display of the electronic camera.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network configuration file includes a phone number used to access the service provider.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first and second memories are memory locations on the same removable memory card.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second memory permanently resides in the electronic camera and can be loaded with the network configuration from a host computer.

8. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network configuration file is generated on a separate host computer.

9. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network configuration file includes a phone number used to access the service provider.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network configuration file includes account data.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the account data is Internet account data.

12. The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the account data is charge number data.

13. The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the account data is a billing address.

14. A method for directing the automatic transmission of images from an electronic camera, the method including the steps of:

- (a) providing network configuration information, including user account data;
- (b) storing the network configuration information in the memory of an electronic still camera;
- (c) using the network configuration information to connect to a service provider;
- (d) transferring images from the electronic camera to the service provider; and
- (e) the service provider sending feedback to the electronic camera indicating the transfer status.

15. The method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the feedback includes an indication that the transfer is complete.

16. The method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the feedback is displayed on a display of the electronic camera.